



Guide to the Youth Orchestras for Strings—ASTRO through Youth Orchestra

Eligibility requirements have been developed in order to ensure the highest quality musical, educational and social setting for all members. Students and parents should have realistic expectations and should audition at the level most appropriate for their musical development. Consulting with a private teacher or school music teacher is recommended. The FVS Youth Orchestras program is designed to be a sequential orchestral program; bypassing orchestras is not recommended. The FVS Youth Orchestras program works closely with the Lawrence Academy of Music and the Academy String Orchestra program (ASTRO). We recommend that students, grades 5-8, without any orchestral experience begin with ASTRO before auditioning for Philharmonia.

For ASTRO members who wish to audition for PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA:

We recommend Philharmonia to students starting at grade 7. Younger ages are accepted upon referral from your private teacher.

Youth Orchestra. Youth Orchestra is open to string, woodwind, brass and percussion students and the suggested level is 9-12th grade by September 1 of the new school year. The Youth Orchestra is the FVS Youth Orchestras' premiere orchestra, performing advanced orchestral literature. Applicants should have several years of band or orchestra experience and perform individually at an advanced high school or pre-college level. Students receive regular sectional coaching by professional musicians.

Concert Orchestra. Concert Orchestra is open to string students and the suggested level is 8-12th grade by September 1 of the new school year. Concert Orchestra performs orchestral literature at the standard to upper high school level and members receive regular sectional coaching on the repertoire being rehearsed. Applicants should have three or more years of orchestral experience and perform individually at an advanced high school level.

Philharmonia. Philharmonia is open to string students and the suggested level is 7-10th grade by September 1 of the new school year. This orchestra performs music for string orchestra at the high school and advanced middle school level and members receive regular sectional coaching on the repertoire being rehearsed. Applicants should have two years of orchestra experience and perform individually at a standard high school or advanced middle school level.

Academy String Orchestra (ASTRO) (part of the Lawrence Academy of Music; separate audition forms are available through their office)

The Academy String Orchestra (ASTRO) is an ensemble of between 45 and 60 string players, grades 5 through 8, who prepare and perform orchestral music. Emphases include the development of reading and ensemble skills. ASTRO's schedule includes 10 weekly rehearsals each semester on Tuesday from 4:30 to 5:45 with performances in November and March. The skill level required places it as an entry-level preparatory ensemble to the Youth Orchestra program. ASTRO is administered by the Lawrence Academy of Music: acad_music@lawrence.edu.

(proficiency and audition requirements are available on the Audition Application link)